

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE 44.NEWSWEEK  
3 May 1982

## Brezhnev Goes Public

It was Lenin's birthday in Moscow last week, and when the leaders of the Kremlin stepped onstage at the Palace of Congresses, there was Leonid Brezhnev to head the celebration. His re-emergence after a four-week absence stilled international rumors that he had suffered a debilitating stroke. As he took his seat, the Communist Party faithful gave him an ovation that seemed genuinely enthusiastic. But Brezhnev looked frail, walked slowly and made no public statement. Reliable Russian sources confirmed that he had experienced some new heart spasms.

According to reports reaching the CIA, Andrei Kirilenko, once Brezhnev's deputy in the party, recently suffered a stroke. Speculation about who was ahead in the struggle to succeed Brezhnev focused on his longtime personal aide, Konstantin Chernenko, who sat beside him at the ceremony, and Yuri Andropov, head of the Soviet secret police. Andropov was the man picked to deliver the annual birthday speech. Western analysts attached particular importance to that choice, since the Lenin-day address rotates among all the top members of the party Politburo. "They could have selected any one of several neutral figures," said one Western diplomat in the Soviet capital. "The fact that it was Andropov does mean something."

Stay tuned.